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February 27, 2004

Soo Area Office

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W., TW-325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: RM-¹⁰⁸²¹~~10321~~

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, Soo Area Office is located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The Soo Area Office operates three parallel locks providing transit between Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

The U.S. Coast Guard Group Soo operates a Vessel Traffic Service on the St. Marys River, which works closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The use of an AIS shore station by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in their Operations Control Tower at the Soo Locks would provide a great advantage to waterway users and the Corps of Engineers in communicating with vessels and planning of transits at the locks which are a bottleneck in the St. Marys River connecting waterway.

The proposal as written would exclude the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from operating a shore station. It would be in the best interest of the Government and waterway users to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to operate a shore station at this facility.

If you have questions on our concern, please contact me at (906) 635-3311.

Sincerely,

Stanley R. Jacek, P.E.
Area Engineer

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